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BAN ON FOREIGN SHIPPING

North China Ports No Longer Open To China's Allies

Severe Blow To
 The Export Trade

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Shanghai, Dec. 18.

Another severe blow, not only to foreign shipping interests, but also to China's export trade, has been dealt by the Executive Yuan's order barring foreign ships loading or discharging at the North China ports of Tsingtao, Chinwangtao, Hulutao and Tientsin.

At Tientsin, this is modified to the extent that foreign ships may handle cargo in the open roadstead at Taku Bar.

NO NEW
 MOVE ON
 INDIA

London, Dec. 18.

The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, will return to India "any day now" but will not carry any new instructions according to a Government source today.

The Viceroy stayed in England to hear the debate in the House of Commons.

Pandit Nehru's resolution to go ahead with the framing of a constitution was viewed as defiance of the British proposals, but the Government does not intend any new move.

Both Mr. Attlee and Lord Pethick-Lawrence have conveyed messages to Nehru, advising him to disregard the "provocative" opposition speeches during the Commons debate.

Their advice is that he proceed with the Constituent Assembly on the basis of the British statement of December 6, in the hope that Mr. Jinnah will eventually retract his decision to boycott the Assembly. —United Press.

Internee
 Detained
 For 7 Years

London, Dec. 17.

An all-party delegation is to wait on the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, in the next few days to raise the case of Karl Kuchenmeister, a German wartime internee who has been detained by the authorities for seven years.

Kuchenmeister an inventor and machine tool engineer is being detained in Brixton Prison under Royal prerogative pending a decision as to whether he should be sent back to Germany or some other country.

When the matter was raised in the House of Commons on Monday night, Mr. George Oliver, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Home Office, stated that Kuchenmeister was being detained under the power which the Crown could exercise against nationals of a state at war with Britain, which is technically the case today. —Reuter.

On A Charge
 Of Massacre

Warsaw, Dec. 18.

Four former Nazi officials of Warsaw pleaded innocent before a supreme national tribunal today to charges they were responsible for the mass executions of Poles and the destruction of the capital. They were Ludwig Fischer, Warsaw's Governor from 1939 through 1944; Max Daum, police colonel; Joseph Meisner, Gestapo chief; and Ludwig Leber, civil guard captain. —Associated Press.

Armed "Mental
 Cases" Escape

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, Dec. 18.

Six life-term Army prisoners, described by Valley Forge General Hospital officials as dangerous and armed, escaped on Tuesday night from a ward of the army hospital here. A hospital spokesman described the men as mental patients.

The hospital where hundreds of ex-servicemen are recovering from wounds and other injuries, declined to elaborate on how the men had escaped. —Associated Press.

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AIR RECORD

Auckland, New Zealand, Dec. 18.

An Australian built Mosquito aircraft today flew 1,350 miles from Sydney to Auckland at an average speed of 363 miles an hour. The plane, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Lawrence Bond, of Melbourne, took three hours 43 minutes for crossing, reducing by 60 minutes the existing record. —Associated Press.

G.I. Had
 Illegal
 Cheque

London, Dec. 17.

A cheque for £100 taken from an American soldier arrested while trying to cross the Franco-Swiss frontier led to summonses at Bow Street police court today.

Mrs. Pety F. Jilpasson, of Dutch birth and married to an Englishman, admitted unlawfully drawing two bills of exchange for £100 each, so that the right to receive payment was created in favour of a person resident outside the sterling area, at a hotel in Cannes, France.

The prosecuting counsel said the Swiss authorities handed the cheque, taken from an American soldier, to the British Treasury. Mrs. Jilpasson informed the Treasury she drew the cheque to obtain funds to cover a debt of honour owing to an agent who had sold a villa she owned in the South of France.

The money was principally needed to cover rates and taxes on the house, she said. The case was adjourned. —Reuter.

The Byrnes Mandate
 Re-Defined

Washington, Dec. 18.

An international conference to seek a solution of China's internal strife is jointly urged by Senator Flanders (Republican, Vermont) and James D. Murray (Democrat, Montana).

They propose in a statement that General George Marshall, the President's special representative in China, preside over a meeting which, they said, could be called within the framework of the United Nations.

"The situation in China is critical," the Senators declare. "Widespread civil war threatens an indefinite period of chaos and destruction. Representatives of all important political parties in China should be permitted to participate in the government of China and Britain, Russia and America, the most important countries in China's foreign relations, should declare themselves out of Chinese politics."

The Senators joined in signing a statement by several prominent persons in other fields, including Owen Lattimore, former adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

American Supplies
 "No coalition government for peace and reconstruction has been formed in China," Murray and Flanders said, adding the belief that neither the Kuomintang nor the Communist regime can win a decisive military victory.

"The two Senators declared that 'it is known' that the Communist forces are not receiving Russian supplies, although they are capturing American equipment from their opponents. 'American supplies,' they said, 'have been identified in the eyes of all Chinese as the major factor in perpetuating chronic and indecisive civil war.'

The Senators said that a relationship of trust and confidence between China and the United States must be based on full independence of China, adding: "No Chinese government can be genuinely independent if it is subject to manipulation. It is time for us to face with equal frankness the fact that no Chinese government will be regarded by its own people as independent if it is under control of a single party and if that party can only maintain itself against the wishes of a large part of the people by reliance on American support." —Associated Press.

Grounds For
 Divorce

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 18. Fred Vasquez is suing for divorce in the Superior Court on the ground that his wife refused to let him play his accordion in the house. —Associated Press.

New Approach To
 China Peace Urged

Washington, Dec. 17.

The Republican foreign affairs leader, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, declaring there has been a "great deal of misunderstanding" concerning America's so-called two-party foreign policy, served notice today that it should not be assumed this necessarily means Republican and Democratic agreement on such matters as Palestine, tariffs and Latin-American and Far Eastern affairs.

He declared that the measure of agreement between the two parties on foreign policy had been clearly defined to include only United Nations affairs and negotiations on European peace settlements.

Though declining to go into details, Senator Vandenberg insisted the two-party policy does not necessarily include Republican support for other aspects of the programme of Mr. James Byrnes, Secretary of State.

At a press conference on his return from New York, Senator Vandenberg also, briefly, publicly expressed his desire to discontinue, serving Mr. Byrnes as fulltime adviser at the Council of Foreign Ministers and United Nations meetings; secondly, scotched widespread speculation that he intends running for President as Republican in 1948 by declaring: "I am not a candidate for presidential nomination and I anticipate no campaign on my behalf."

Expressing the belief that the "foundations of American post-war foreign policy are soundly established," Senator Vandenberg issued a statement saying: "I shall continue to hold myself available for any further personal labour that may be deemed essential by the President, or Secretary of State, but I am sure that I can now count on returning to my primary

Senate labours without further serious interruption. That is my expectation."

"Security And Justice" Senator Vandenberg, who will be Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, at the next session of Congress, declared: "I shall continue to do everything within my power to cooperate in maintaining the united American foreign policy which had been established in respect to peace settlements in Europe and established collective security and justice through the United Nations."

"I consider it vital to our national interests, I shall continue to support Mr. Byrnes in these policies. I consider he has made a superb record in the face of tremendous obstacles and that he has accomplished incalculable results for America and for a safer and happier world."

The Senator said Republicans could take no responsibility whatever for the Administration's Palestine policy.

Asked about his party's tariff policies, Senator Vandenberg said: "That is a tricky subject and I am not prepared to go into it at present." —Reuter.

Mr. Byrnes Speaks

Washington, Dec. 17.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, at his first general press conference in six weeks said he hoped the success of the recent international meetings in New York would speed the progress of the German and Austrian peace treaties.

He warned that agreements reached in New York not necessarily mean that all "Big Four" differences had been overcome, but he thought there was cause for rejoicing because it had been shown that agreement could be reached.

Mr. Byrnes said he shared the optimism expressed by Mr. Bevin and Mr. Molotov before they sailed on Saturday.

He said he would ask both Senators Tom Connally and Arthur Vandenberg to accompany him to the Moscow meeting of the "Big Four" next March.

He hoped Senator Connally would change his recent attitude against participating further in international conferences. —United Press.

The Thin
 Man Went
 To Sleep

New York, Dec. 18.

Six radio patrolmen and two ambulance attendants dashed into a Seventh Avenue subway station recently, leaped to the tracks and began to remove the body of a man over whom a train had just passed.

Suddenly the victim stirred, yawned prodigiously, and said: "What's going on here? What's all the trouble?"

The surprised policemen lifted him to safety, while an oncoming train was flagged down. He identified himself as Lav Mitch, 45-year-old negro porter on the "Queen Elizabeth," who dimly recalled a party somewhere and then an overpowering desire to sleep.

When the unscratched Lav was told where he had been napping, he looked at his thin frame and said: "Boy, am I glad I'm skinny." —Associated Press.

V.C.

London, Dec. 17. The Victoria Cross has been posthumously awarded to T/Lieutenant Thomas Wilkinson, RNR, for valour at Singapore in February, 1942, when he was in command of a patrol vessel, HMS "Li Wo."

Tonight's announcement of the award says it is awarded not only for Lieut. Wilkinson's heroism and self-sacrifice, but in honour, also, of all who fought and died with him. —Reuter.

No Sex
 Starvation
 Plea

LONDON, DEC. 18.

LEAFLETS ENTITLED "THE BACHELOR MOTHERHOOD LEAGUE" AND ADVOCATING "PLURAL MATING" TO SOLVE THE ALLEGED OVERABUNDANCE OF WOMEN COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF MEN IN EUROPE WERE DISTRIBUTED IN LONDON TODAY.

The leaflets said there were 200,000 more men than women in England alone and ended: "Their nervous systems and health demand expression... there is widespread frustration of legitimate biological desires."

A mass meeting was advocated for Sunday by Dr. Edward Wilson, signer of the leaflet, who gave a coded postal address.

The leaflets did not advocate breaking the bigamy laws but suggested alliances by "private agreement." —United Press.

Purge Of
 Left In
 Turkey

Ankara, Dec. 17.

Forty-four persons were reported today to have been arrested in Istanbul after a search during the night of several members of the Extreme Left Wing.

The Government today ordered the closing of the Left Wing party office and organizations said to have been formed by Communists in Istanbul and Turkish Thrace — which borders on Greek Thrace where guerrillas have their hideouts.

Several newspapers belonging to parties or to organizations alleged to have Communist tendencies have been suspended — some for four months, others indefinitely.

The parties were suppressed under a "state of siege" which was recently extended for another six months after being in force since 1940. —Reuter.

Birching
 Order Threat

Jerusalem, Dec. 18.

A military court on Tuesday night sentenced a 17-year-old Jew to one month's imprisonment and 12 strokes on conviction of possessing a leaflet bomb.

The sentence followed an Irqun Zval Leumi broadcast warning: "We will treat British soldiers the same way."

The broadcast came shortly after a military court had sentenced another Jew to 18 strokes and one year's imprisonment. —Associated Press.

H.K. WAR DAMAGE
 COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. M. H. Matheson of the Phoenix Assurance Company, Limited, to be War Damage Claims Commissioner for Hong Kong. Mr. C. G. F. F. Belmont, formerly Secretary to the Hong Kong Port Trust, has been appointed Secretary to the War Damage Claims Commission. Mr. Matheson is expected to arrive in the Colony early in March, 1947.

Rome, Dec. 18. The Vatican News Service announced today that the Pope is "physically in fine health," to deny his reported illness. —United Press.

GRIM HONG KONG
 ATROCITY STORIES

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

"All prisoners of war in Hong Kong must die," Canadian Army Chaplain James Barnett, Royal Rifles, testified that he was told by a Japanese lieutenant after the fall of the Colony in 1941, as the British phase of the war crimes trials continued here today.

The Rev. Mr. Barnett described the Christmas Day massacre of wounded and sick at St. Stephen's College Hospital on December 25, 1941, when 70 men were bayoneted on their hospital cots.

"I myself saw some 15 to 20 wounded men bayoneted in bed," he said.

He revealed that when the Japanese seized the hospital, there were approximately 175 persons, including patients and staff, on the premises. After the massacre, he said, a number of dead bodies were cremated by order of the Japanese.

The 40-year-old chaplain related finding the bodies of three nurses in the hospital garden — one of them with her head virtually severed — after they had been raped. He said four other nurses in the hospital were violated.

After the first Allied bombing of Hong Kong in November, 1942, the Rev. Mr. Barnett said, the Japanese accused some patients of cheering the American planes as they passed overhead. As a result, he continued, the Japanese medical commander in Hong Kong — Dr. Saito — ordered the muster of all patients who could walk and also the hospital staff.

Dr. Saito then walked among the patients, the chaplain related, and in Ward No. 5 "beat all the patients in the face" in punishment for their action.

The Australian prosecutor, Justice James Mansfield of Queensland, then introduced a series of documents relating Japanese barbarity committed against Allied civilian internees in Siam. —United Press.

Unable To Rise
 Tokyo, Dec. 18.

The Rev. Mr. Barnett testified that Japanese soldiers came to St. Stephen's College hospital in the early morning and began bayonetting to death all wounded soldiers unable to rise from their beds. Those able to walk were herded into a room where they slept until the next day.

Seven nurses, however, were taken from the room by Japanese soldiers.

"I saw one of the nurses beaten over the head with a steel helmet and kicked and slapped by the Japanese soldiers," said the chaplain.

He asserted he did not see the nurses again until the next day when four of them told him they had been raped repeatedly during the night.

He said the mutilated bodies of the three other nurses were found in the bushes on the hospital grounds. —Associated Press.

Mass Murder
 Seven hundred Hong Kong civilians were rounded up by the Japanese, herded into small boats and when 400 yards off shore were forced into the choppy sea at bayonet point, according to evidence introduced later.

About 200 men managed to make the shore. One or two children also survived, an affidavit from Mohamed Hussain said.

The Australian prosecutor, Justice Alan Mansfield introduced documents stating that through out the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, Indians were seized and forced through torture to admit they were spies.

For example, Mohammed Ali, caught in March, 1943, making sketches of a Hong Kong street was taken to the Japanese torture chamber. When he "no longer could stand the strain" he wrote a false confession.

Eventually, 43 were executed, 12 died through torture and illness and one committed suicide.

Women Stripped
 The affidavit said that Indian women were often stripped and their naked bodies burned with cigarettes, hot nails and pieces of metal while their husbands were compelled to watch.

Puntab-born Murad Ali in an affidavit said he witnessed six different ways of Japanese torture. One typical brutality consisted of binding prisoners to a grill, legs apart, down, bodies stripped and the slow burning of the "private parts" with a lighted candle.

All added: "Both women and men were treated in this manner." —United Press.

VIETNAM ATTACK

Paris, Dec. 18.

Three French soldiers and 15 Vietnamese were killed on Tuesday in a clash near Grand Lac, a Hanoi dispatch to the French press agency reported on Wednesday. —Associated Press.

Stassen
 Wants To
 Be President

Washington, Dec. 17.

The former Governor of Minnesota, Mr. Harold Stassen, announced today that he intended to seek 1948 Republican Presidential nomination on a platform of "true liberalism."

Mr. Stassen told a news conference he would establish a Washington office on January 1 to further his campaign; and "I intend to let my supporters present my name in the 1948 Republican primaries and to the Republican National Convention."

The wartime Navy captain listed a four-point platform: 1. No big strikes and high continuous production.

2. Raising the pay of white-collar workers.

3. Opposition to extreme measures threatening the fundamental rights of labour.

4. Exercise consumer resistance against high prices. —United Press.

Wave Of
 Shoplifting

London, Dec. 18.

With Christmas only a week away, shoplifting reached a new high on Tuesday with an estimated \$6,000 pilched from Birmingham store counters alone.

Police and store chiefs throughout England describe the shoplifting wave as the worst since 1938 and shop executives expect a sevenfold increase during the coming week.

Police charges brought are 200 per cent higher than last year and only a small percentage of shoplifters are caught due to the shortage of salesgirls and detectives.

Women are the chief offenders, stealing chiefly shoes, handkerchiefs and underwear. Store authorities state the shoplifting epidemic is due mainly to the coupon system. Women have money but no coupons with which to buy. —United Press.

MADRID TRAIN
 SMASH

Madrid, Dec. 17.

Eighteen people are now known to have been killed in the train smash near Alcazar, 105 miles from Madrid, when the Madrid-Malaga-Algeciras express hit stationary goods wagons while going at full speed.

Bodies tonight were still being exhumed from the wreck. Two hospital trains have arrived in Madrid with the 80 injured, including two British subjects. —Reuter.

THE WEATHER

The anticyclone is unchanged in intensity, and now covers the whole of China, S. Japan and the neighbouring seas. Pressure remains low to the N.E. of Japan and over the equatorial region. The Philippine depression appears to have filled up.

Today's Forecast: Moderate N.E. winds, freshening; fair.

Yesterday's Weather: Maximum: 89.3 deg. Fah. Minimum: 58.9 deg. Fah. Max. Rel. Humidity: 82 per cent. Sunshine: 5.2 hours. Rainfall: Nil.

Bellenger Says "No"

London, Dec. 17. The War Minister, Mr. Bellenger, was asked in the House of Commons today, whether it was with his authority that Field Marshal Montgomery stated in Trieste that "the function of maintaining order in Greece belonged to the Greek Government and police" and that British troops were not there to fight the Greeks.

He replied: "No." Then he was asked if he was aware that Field Marshal Montgomery did make this statement and whether he knew of the statement and agreed with it? Mr. Bellenger replied: "I have already answered. The answer is no."—Reuter.

JURY FAILS TO REACH VERDICT IN HAWKER CASE

After retiring for two hours, the Jury failed to reach a verdict in the case of Ramzan Syed charged with the manslaughter of Wong Shui-cheong, a hawker on October 26 in Portland Street, at the Supreme Court yesterday before the Chief Justice, Sir Henry Blackall.

After the announcement, Mr. Leo d'Almada, defending counsel, applied for bail and suggested that it be a very light one. Mr. d'Almada said accused was a Hong Kong boy and there was no likelihood of his leaving the Colony.

After Mr. Reynolds, prosecuting Counsel had stated that he had no objection. His Lordship fixed bail at \$100. Accused is to stand remanded until the At-

torney-General thinks fit to reinstate him or not.

Before the trial adjournment, Mr. d'Almada made a long submission that the case, on the evidence did not warrant it going to the jury but the Chief Justice ruled against the submission.

The morning proceedings started with the cross-examination of Tsun Hak-yun, aged 13, who, in reply to Mr. d'Almada, said that because of the long time his memory had failed him. Mr. d'Almada suggested that not only had his memory failed him, but that he got his imagination to aid him. In reply to further questions, witness said the constable hit deceased on the left side. At yesterday's hearing he had said that it was on the right side that deceased had been hit.

He maintained that he saw kicks and blows given by the constable and said that the hawker was in a stooping position when struck and not lying on the ground.

The Fall

Kwok Sing, aged 12, said that he was playing in Portland Street and saw a constable chase a peanut hawker. The hawker fell down when running with a basket. The constable was several shop lengths away. The constable caught the hawker by the collar, picked him up and took him to the police van at the corner of the street. An Inspector was there. The inspector took two peanuts and told the hawker to go away.

SAIGON AIR LINE

Nanking, Dec. 18. The Chinese Government announced yesterday that it had signed an agreement with France authorizing the French to operate an airline between Shanghai and any point in Indo-China, while a Chinese airline was authorized to operate from any point in China to Saigon.—Associated Press.

The hawker then picked up his peanuts from the ground. C.I. Mottram gave evidence stating that efforts had been made to get people who saw the incident to come forward but there was no response.

At the end of the prosecution case, Mr. d'Almada made a lengthy submission that the Crown must prove that it was a voluntary act of accused which caused the death. The evidence was very far from the kind to justify the case being left to the jury. Part of the evidence was as consistent with accused's innocence as his guilt. Dr. Holloway's evidence was that the spleen was very friable. A muscular movement could rupture it. It was consistent with the evidence that the spleen was ruptured before accused laid hands on him.

There were numerous contradictions in the witness for the Crown. He might ask the Prosecuting Counsel which story was true.

If Wong Yau's evidence was true, how could one square it with the evidence of Dr. Holloway. Wong Yau, the adult, who said that deceased was kicked and stamped on 10 times. If Wong Yau's evidence was to be discarded on whose evidence was any reliance to be placed. On that of two small boys, who could not recollect and in the course of evidence made serious contradictory statements.

No Further

In conclusion, Mr. d'Almada said that a good deal had been made of this case by certain sections of the community. Nothing was unfair in politics. He welcomed the fullest investigation. It was proper that accused should be charged, but on the evidence adduced the case should have gone no further. The magistrate in the lower court should not have committed. When the papers went to the Attorney General, on the evidence, should not have filed the indictment.

In the afternoon, the Chief Justice said he had given careful consideration to the submissions of the defense counsel. He had to decide whether there was technical evidence that warranted leaving the case to the jury. Crown Counsel had pointed out that two of the small boys had given evidence that kicks were administered by accused before deceased fell down. If the jury believed the evidence, showed kicks were given and deceased died of a ruptured spleen, accused would be technically guilty.

Border Line

It was a border line case. There was technical evidence that warranted leaving the case to the jury but that did not mean that the jury should believe the evidence. They were to judge for themselves on the facts.

In his final address, Mr. d'Almada said that racial and political considerations could not affect a decision in a British court of law. A citizen had died in certain circumstances and another man had been charged with causing the death. The jury had nothing to do with any other considerations.

The jury must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt. They must be satisfied in the same way as in some matter of grave importance affecting the community.

Before naming up the Chief Justice told the jury that much publicity has been given to this case by people who had tried to make it a political issue and start anti-British propaganda. He felt confident that the jury in arriving at their verdict would be guided by the evidence and not be influenced by politicians of Canton or the rabble of Kowloon.

Whatever might be the system of others, the British system was to try a man on the evidence and on the evidence alone.

In summing up, His Lordship said that unlike most cases, it was most difficult to get a clear picture of what really happened.

ST. THOMAS MORE ASSOCIATION

The inaugural meeting of the St. Thomas More Catholic Association was held at the Catholic Centre, 1st Floor, King's Building at 6.30 p.m. on December 17. About one hundred members were present and a very successful special party was held after the business meeting was completed.

Mr. E. V. Lederhofer was elected President for 1947 and the following members were elected to the committee: Mr. G. Grant, Mrs. P. Corra, Mrs. H. D. Bidwell, Dr. A. A. Macfarlane, J. Whelan and A. J. ...

DAKOTA FOUND WRECKED

Shanghai, Dec. 17. The Central Air Transport Corporation Dakota plane which was missing within forty miles of Shanghai during the week-end with five occupants and half a ton of banknotes on board, crashed in the hills near Changshing, on the border of Chekiang and Kiangsu, it was stated officially today.

All of the five Chinese occupants, two of whom were passengers, were killed. A search is now being made for the banknotes which the plane was carrying to Shanghai.—Reuter.

THE HAND AT THE WINDOW

The prosecution asked for a serious view to be taken in larceny cases from the Takko Dockyard when So To-ming, odd job coolie, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for the theft of a clock from the s.s. "Ning Hai" on Tuesday morning.

Sub-Inspector Manson said that at about 11 a.m. Mr. W. J. Bunney, chief officer, was inside the cabin when he saw a hand come through the window and take the clock. He immediately ran out of the cabin and arrested the defendant.

Hector Lee All Day In Witness Box

Standing in the witness box throughout yesterday to complete his evidence, Hector Lee, alias Li Yick-dor, claimed that he maintained direct contact with the Chinese guerilla chief in the New Territories and supplied him with important information throughout the period he was employed by the Japanese Gendarmarie.

The trial of Lee on five charges under the 1940 Defence Regulations entered the third day yesterday before Mr. Justice E. H. Williams at the Criminal Sessions. Mr. A. J. Clifford, Crown Counsel, assisted by Inspector J. Bradley of the Special Branch, is conducting the prosecution. Mr. B. Bernacchi, instructed by Mr. F. H. Loseby, is defending Lee.

In the witness box yesterday Lee flatly denied the allegation that he assisted the Japanese gendarmes in arresting and interrogating under torture two persons suspected of being guerillas.

Referring to the fifth count concerning the arrest of Chung Hong and So Wan, accused alleged that he merely acted on the instructions of Venpin (Crown witness) who was an interpreter attached to the Japanese Gendarmarie.

He said that while he was playing mah-jong with another Chinese mitter at 399, Temple Street in Sept. 1944, Venpin brought a woman into the house and asked them to go out with him to arrest her husband for allegedly firing rockets.

Lee said he and the other mitter went with Venpin and the woman and arrested Chung and So when they were pointed out by the woman.

Escaped

In October 1943, Lee went on to say, he was arrested by Tsui Kwok-ching (who has been executed for high treason) and Lee Ping-tong for political offences. On the way to the Gendarmarie H.Q., he succeeded in escaping. He went to No. 64, Parkes Street, occupied by a woman friend who was now his wife, and hid himself until the beginning of 1944, after bribing Tsui and Lee with 25,000 yen to square the matter.

Through his wife, whose elder brother was an Allied agent in Canton, he maintained indirect contact with her brother and passed information regarding Japanese ship movements from Hainan to Hong Kong and from Hong Kong to Formosa.

In September, 1943, he came to know Chung Hong-yau, officer of the Kwangtung People's Anti-Japanese Guerilla Force for Hong Kong and Kowloon, with headquarters in Yim Tin.

From time to time, Lee claimed, he met Chung and gave information about Japanese troop movements. Chung told him to spy inside the Japanese Gendarmarie.

Following a guerilla raid on the Japanese post at Shataukou on Sept. 30, 1944, Lee added, the Japanese started training police men and mitters for a campaign against guerillas in Yim Tin.

They were given exercises in throwing hand-grenades. The campaign was supposed to be carried out five days after the completion of their training.

A Warning

With this knowledge of the training, to which he himself took part, he informed the guerilla head, Chung, who had his headquarters at Yim Tin.

Kowloon Price Contrd

Some twenty Kowloon stores and market stalls were summoned before Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon Court yesterday for overcharging on various commodities, particularly fresh milk and hard sweets.

The Kowloon Confectionary, 68 Nathan Road, was fined \$75 for selling an 8-oz. bottle of fresh milk at 80 cents, 25 cents in excess of the fixed price. For similar offences, the Indian Curry Cafe, of 354 Nathan Road, was fined \$75; the Kam Kok Yuen Cafe, 45 Woosung Street, \$100; the Singapore Cafe, 639 Nathan Road, \$75; the Sun Kong Cafe, 43 Woosung Street, \$125; and Rays Cafe, 525 Nathan Road, \$25. Fines varied according to the size of the premises and of the overcharge.

The V. Chierikoff Confectionary, 188 Nathan Road, was fined \$100 for overcharging \$1.25 on half a pound of hard sweets. Other offenders on a similar charge were the Tai Luk Cafe, 584 Shanghai Street, fined \$30; the Taun Heong Co., 188 Lai-chikok Road, fined \$25; and the Pun Sum Tea House, 322 Shanghai Street, \$30.

A fine of \$200 was imposed on the Kin On Drug Co., 200 Shanghai Street, for overcharging \$2.50 on 10 tablets of Bayer's Aspirin. Other summonses were for overcharges on fresh oranges, electric light bulbs, Gibb's Dentifrice, sanitary napkins, soap, and condensed milk.

Cheung Chau War Crimes Trial

Testifying at yesterday's War Crimes Trial of Sgt. Honda Isamu, who appeared before No. 7 War Crimes Court, Lam Heng, a Chinese woman, stated that she was beaten and given the water torture by accused.

The case is being heard before Lieut. Col. C. F. Ball (President), Major M. I. Ormsby and Captain R. B. R. Gortley, Members.

Major E. C. Lai, J.A.G. Branch, is Prosecuting Officer. The accused, who is charged with committing a war crime in that he, at Cheung Chau Island in the Colony of Hong Kong, between Dec. 24, 1944 and Jan. 13, 1945, when officer in charge of the Cheung Chau Kempeitai, was in violation of the laws and usages of war, concerned in maltreatment causing physical suffering to Cheung Wo-kwai, Lam Ah-heng, Man Fook, Man Yuk-mui, Man Sui-wa, Choi Seng, Cheung Wah-yuk and Wong Ming also known as Ah Ming and Fook Tai, all Chinese civilian residents of Cheung Chau Island, is defended by Mr. Takano Juniro assisted by Lieut. J. N. Whitehorn.

Cheng Wo-kwai, who is engaged in the fishing business, said that he was arrested by the Japanese on Dec. 23, 1944. He was interrogated by accused on two occasions and beaten with a bamboo pole. He was beaten all over and suffered much pain. Parts of his body were swollen as a result.

For some two months after his release four days before Chinese New Year he still suffered from pains caused by the beatings. Answering Mr. Takano, he said he was accused of stealing rice. Four sacks of rice had been stolen.

Beaten And Kicked Lam Ah-heng said she was arrested by the Japanese on Dec. 24, 1944, with Cheung Wah-yuk, Fook Tai, Choy Seng and Wong Ming, in connection with the loss of some rice. She was interrogated three times by accused. She was first beaten and then asked if she knew what had taken place.

The orchestra of the late Major Glen Miller will be featured in this week's "Swing Club" which meets at the NAAFI club, Kowloon tonight at 8 o'clock. All who enjoy listening to discs of British and American Swing bands and Orchestras are cordially invited.

After this, she was given water torture by Honda. Under cross-examination, Lam said that in addition to making a confession, she paid 30,000 Military Yen to Poon. This man told her that if she wanted to live, she had better pay the bribe. To obtain the money, she had to sell her shop. After evidence by Man Yuk-mui and Man Sui-wa, her children, and by Choi Seng, the hearing was adjourned till today.

The orchestra of the late Major Glen Miller will be featured in this week's "Swing Club" which meets at the NAAFI club, Kowloon tonight at 8 o'clock. All who enjoy listening to discs of British and American Swing bands and Orchestras are cordially invited.

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Money Market

Chinese National Currency steady, itself yesterday as after opening at 55 cents for futures and 54 1/2 cents for spot (for CN\$1,000) it improved to 61 cents and 86 cents respectively at the close.

Gold appreciated in value, closing at \$311.25 a tael after opening in the morning at \$307.60. Futures had another steady day opening at \$15.55 per 100 and closing at \$15.95. Fluctuations ranged between \$15.47 and \$15.76.

U.S. dollars were in demand at \$4.77. Sterling and Australian pounds were unchanged at \$15.65 and \$12.55 respectively.

Shai Exchange

Shanghai, Dec. 18. Closing quotations on the Shanghai market today were as follows:

	Buying	Selling
Gold per ounce	CN\$ 336,000	CN\$ 337,000
U.S. Dollar	6,300	6,400
Hong Kong Dollar	1,250	1,260

—Associated Press.

THE MAHARAJA OF JODHPUR

High Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, who is on a six-day visit to Hong Kong, arrived by air at Kai Tak yesterday, and is staying at Government House.

A dinner party in his honour was given by H.E. the Governor last evening.

An exhibition of Chinese water colour painting by Ho Chai Yuen will be held in Room 202, Alexandra Building, from Friday to Sunday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Apples Sliced (8 lbs.)	8.00
Beef Suet	.60 " lb.
Bolled Beef	1.10 " tin
Carrots	1.10 " tin
Bacon (Sliced & Slab)	1.80
Cheese (N. Z. Cheddar)	1.50 " lb.
Chopped Ham	1.80
Corned Beef (8 lbs.)	8.00
Cranberries	1.00 " pkt.
Corned Beef Hash (5 1/2 lbs.)	4.90
Lard	.50 " lb.
Margarin (2 lb.)	3.00
Minced Meat (8 lb.)	6.90
Peaches	1.70
Pears	1.70
Pork Sausage	1.40
Pineapple Crushed	1.80
Pork Luncheon Meat (6 lbs.)	9.20
Shrimp Tongues	1.80
Sweet Pickles	5.00
Salmon	2.00
Stewed Sisk	1.30
Vegetables	1.30
Vegetable Shortening	18.00
Apple & Black-currant Juice	1.20
Orange & Grape-fruit Juice	1.20
Orange Juice	1.20

POULTRY SPECIALS.

Turkeys	\$2.80 per lb.
Chickens	\$2.30 per lb.
Ducks	2.25
RABBITS	\$1.16 per lb.
PRIME AUSTRALIAN LAMB	
Legs	1.35 per lb.
Loins	1.35
Chops	1.50
Shoulder (Whole)	1.00
Shoulder half blade	1.10
Shoulder (half knuckle)	.90
Breast	.45
Middle Neck	.70
Scraps	.18
Kidneys	1.70
Liver	1.00

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rashers	3.50
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Ham shank end	3.80
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Ham, Middles or rashers	4.30

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Middles Whole	\$2.50 per lb.
Slices	2.70
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Shank Cut	2.15
End Cut	1.60
Slices	2.35

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Hong Kong, 17th Dec., 194



Readers' Letters

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Well, well, Milo Popgarter! What brings YOU around this part of town?"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

DON'T TAKE IT CHEAPLY

Taking a trick as cheaply as possible with the lowest card that will win it for you is not necessarily economical. On plenty of occasions it is more economical by far to take it with the biggest card you have. That is so when squandering of high cards produces an economy of vital entries into one holding of your side or the holding opposite it. No high card can be rated arbitrarily in value according to its mere height. Its true value, in relation to your contract, depends on the way that card can be used to put maximum value into other assets.

South played low. Little did South think, when he put the 3 on the first trick, that he thereby beat his own contract. But that is just what he did. The second, third and fourth tricks were the club A, K and 10. To the Q, whereat East sent back the heart 6, which West won with the K. The heart 2 lead then made the Q and A fall together. Desperate to get back into the dummy so he could run the three established clubs, South led toward the spade Q, but East downed that with the K, then returned the diamond J. Consequently the defenders set South three tricks.

West was clearly marked by the bidding and the lead as having the heart K, so South should have overthrown his own J on the first trick with the A or else sounder still—should have played low from dummy and used his A to win. That would have assured him a re-entry to dummy after taking two high clubs and giving up a third. Nothing then could have prevented his getting nine tricks before the defense took more than one in hearts, one in clubs, and two in diamonds.

Tomorrow's Question

With five spades to the Q-7, five hearts to the K-Q-10, one little diamond and two little clubs, why is it sometimes wise to make an opening 1-Spade bid in third hand position, but extremely dangerous as dealer?

come to the Centre bringing applicants whose firms or departments provide transport as a courtesy to their workers and to save time.

We sympathize with your correspondent's desire to give warm clothing to street sleepers, and he will be glad to know that a large quantity of clothing and old blankets is being given to destitutes. European summer clothing would not be likely to keep these unfortunate warm.

J. CRUTTWELL, Secretary, Hong Kong Social Welfare Council.

Cheap

Sir,—The Royals ask for it. It is regrettable that the majority have to suffer for the actions of a few, but such is the world we are living in. A standard has to be followed, and men judged accordingly; but, to vent one's feelings of irritation resulting from a inferiority complex on a charitable institution and a religious body whose activities are not in the least responsible for the actions that caused the irritation, is to say the least, cheap, despicable and cowardly.

NAUSEA

Retribution. Sir,—We would like space in your paper to air our views about the demolition of the Japanese War Memorial on Mount Cameron.

We understand that local contractors are to be engaged for the job, which we think is all wrong. The work should be done by Japs the same Japs that were here during the occupation and caused the unsightly object to be erected. Treat these men as War Criminals, and to watch over

them to see that they do not slack, bring ex P.O.W.s (volunteers) from the United Kingdom, Canada, U.S.A., and from all other countries—whose P.O.W.s in Japanese hands were so cruelly forced to build the memorial. Thousands of such men would jump at the chance of renewing old acquaintances with the Japs under these revised conditions. These guards should be paid a very high wage whilst living here, the money being taken from public funds of the various countries or could take the form of a gift subscribed by the people of these countries in appreciation of the work and hardships endured by these men during the war.

The Japanese were responsible for the thing being put up, now let's make them pull the ruddy thing down again—brick by brick!

R.N. & E.M.

Mail And V.I.P.s

Sir,—I submit that strong protests should be made to the Authorities responsible for interference with air mails between the United Kingdom and this Colony. It has always been considered a maxim that mail took preference over persons, but within the last few weeks there appear to have been at least two occasions when this order has been reversed. I cannot believe that any male or female be sufficiently V.I.P. to warrant the inconvenience, expense and disruption incurred by Business Houses and individuals when their mail is delayed. Perhaps the Post-Master General can be persuaded to make a statement on the matter.

BUSINESS

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IN MEMORIAM

LAMBERT — In memory of Lionel Ernest Lambert who was killed at North Point December 19th, 1941.

ANDERSON — In proud and precious memory of Lieutenant Donald James Neville Anderson of the H.K.V.D.C., who died in Hong Kong on the 19th of December, 1941. Mother, Father, Phyllis, Joyce and Derek.

DEATH

CAVALIER — On Dec. 4, 1946, in his sleep, from heart failure, Arthur Ramaden Cavalier, aged 64, late Colonial Civil Service, Hongkong, beloved husband of Kitty Cavalier, Fanling, Crondall, Hants.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Since last May the House of Commons has had before it a Bill to empower the Minister for Supply to promote the development of atomic energy and to control its unauthorised production and the publication of information endangering national security. This measure, as Mr. Attlee said in moving the second reading, is an earnest of Britain's readiness to fulfil obligations that may fall on her under any plan of international control devised by the United Nations' Commission on Atomic Energy. Unfortunately, progress in the shaping of such a plan has been very slow. The shadow of the atomic bomb has lain dark over the nations, but efforts to banish it so far have split on a fundamental difference in the American and Russian conceptions of how the frightful new weapon should be treated. America has the secret and possesses actual stocks of the bomb. She will not consent to divulge the one and destroy the other, except under the most stringent safeguards. In her view, the Russian plan to outlaw the manufacture and use of atomic weapons is insufficient. She insists, with very good reason, upon a rigid system of international control and inspection.

UNO's Atomic Commission has investigated the nature of the safeguards needed. In August the control committee, after hearing Mr. Gromyko's further explanations of the Russian plan and his deprecation of a system of inspection, asked the scientific and technical committee for a report. This body of 12 scientists found that control of atomic energy was technologically feasible, but that only appropriate safeguards at each stage of production could prevent diversion of material or installations for military purposes. The scientists, however, considered it beyond their province to indicate methods by which effective control could be achieved; and, as the Atomic Commission has now decided to examine these for itself. This implication is that international safeguards, as distinct from simply outlawing, are deemed to be indispensable to the banning of atomic warfare. Inspection has been found technically practicable, there is unlikely to be agreement on control. Mr. Baruch has urged the Russian delegate to withdraw his objections in view of the modifications of the Soviet viewpoint, but if there is to be no agreement the race for pre-eminence in this deadly field will go on, with the United States, far in the lead. The British Government has decided that it can wait no longer to provide legislative authority for its own atomic energy schemes. These necessarily assume the character of a State Monopoly. The dangers of research and manufacture, the importance of secrecy, and the expectation of ultimate international control, alike dictate that the whole process should remain in Government hands, even at some risk of restricting scientific progress and checking the dissemination of legitimate scientific information. Britain foresees an expenditure of at least \$30 million on the development of atomic energy, and her research establishment, the Minister for Supply lamented, is already depriving the nation of labour and materials badly needed for housing and in-

By MARGARET BRADBURY

which during the war was one of the Royal Navy's most closely guarded secrets. Known as the Oxy-ac torch, it actually produces a cutting flame under water three times more intense than anything previously invented and is capable of cutting through super-imposed structures and heavy metal sections.

Cut In Three

An official said yesterday: The sunken Japanese wreck now under the 100-ton crane at Kowloon docks has been severed in three pieces by the Oxy-torch and it is hoped that these will be removed soon by special heavy lifting craft. The remainder of the vessels now in port are all too badly damaged by bombing to be raised as complete ships and so they will be dispersed by explosives and lifted free.

"This applies to vessels which are not near to key structure, vulnerable underwater cables and aqueducts and valuable buildings."

But apart from the many difficulties attached to this work, the majority of the sunken vessels are loaded with

ore, scrap and other cargo and this has first to be removed by mechanical equipment before demolition begins. The sunken ship almost on the Star Ferry route is only fifty feet from the main water pipeline between Hong Kong and Kowloon. Operations which have been carried out so far include the S.S. Chung Wo. This obstruction could only be removed by blowing her bows off and cutting her into movable pieces by the means of Oxy-torches. At the same time H.M.S. King Salvor was clearing the boom despite the great danger of mines. Other lifts have included a 5000-ton tanker off Stonecutters Island, the 8000-ton S.S. Yamashiro Maru, whose refloated hull can be seen at anchor off the Kowloon shore, and also a Yaumati ferry. All the minor wrecks were either lifted or removed within three months. Most of the ships raised so far have been in a badly damaged condition, as most were bombed and only a few were scuttled.

Key Men

Trained key men came forward to form the nucleus of the salvage teams which were recruited from local Chinese. Most important of these are the riggers. The heavy steel lifting cables used for salvage work are nine inches in circumference and have a breaking strain of 260 tons. As many as eight of these wires are used on occasions when lifts of over 1000 tons are taken.

Salvage work in Hong Kong has encountered many difficulties. For example, the Yaumati Ferry, turned over twice while being lifted and later it was discovered by naval divers that she contained about 600 tons of oil. This oil is a frequent problem and may be pumped out when hot but when it is harder, hoses or even buckets have to be used. But as the harbour bed is mainly soft severe methods have not yet been necessary.

The Port authorities in Hong Kong have hired from the Royal Navy all the heavy lift ships and equipment needed, plus skilled personnel for carrying out the task of clearing the harbour.

Hong Kong Salvage To Last Two Years

At least two years of salvage work will have to be finished before Hong Kong's wreck littered Harbour is tidy again.

In an interview with a Harbour official yesterday I was told: "There are nine major wrecks still lying under water, and a great many operations will need to be carried out before the total clearance of ships sunk here during the war is completed."

Up to now seven major wrecks and over a hundred smaller crafts from alongside the various jetties and quays have been raised by the Royal Navy since September last year.

This type of salvage in Hong Kong is divided into two sections—the Naval anchorage where there are still five wrecks, and the commercial water areas of the port where there are five.

These wrecks will have to be broken up by Britain's latest underwater cutting device



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"GOOD NEWS" FOR THE WORLD UNO's Hopes On Subject Of Atomic Control Russia Asks For More Study

Lake Success, N.Y. Dec. 17.
Dr. Manuel Vallarta, of Mexico, presiding today at the "last lap" meeting of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission here, said the Commission's work of the past two weeks might mean "good news" for the world regarding atomic control.

"It is clear to all that an international control agency is needed," he said. "In what has been done in the past two weeks there is much cause for encouragement. We may even be able to offer the people good news for which they have been waiting."

The Commission was studying the new proposals for atomic control by Mr. Bernard Baruch, permanent United States member, to establish a world atomic control pact, not subject to the Security Council veto.

Baruch's plan provides that an international control authority shall have the right to levy punishment on individuals and nations for breaches of the proposed treaty. Baruch told the Commission:

"I urge two claims upon your attention:

"1. To adopt and proclaim these basic principles that have forced themselves upon us and our work.

"2. To proceed to do it now. The time has come to match our words with action. We are under the compulsions placed upon us by the General Assembly. The great and solemn debate held by that body on disarmament was closed last Saturday night with an expression of unanimous support by all the nations represented. It is a declaration that may be—must be—high in historical importance because of its effect upon all the peoples of the world.

"A new spirit has come into being. It is our privilege and duty to give flesh to that spirit. The injunction has been laid upon the atomic commission to proceed expeditiously to the development of a formula of action."

He added: "A further survey of the practical and operational elements of the problem by an informal group composed of our political and scientific advisers has established for all participants a final and unanimous conclusion—for the protection of the world against destructive uses of atomic energy there must be brought into existence an international control agency.

"However, we must first establish a general framework within which solution will be sought. We need determination of policy on the basis of which we can elaborate in detail, the characteristics which the international control agency must have if it is effectively to fulfil our mandate."

"The resolutions proposed by the United States are offered to provide such a basis. We have no pride in authorship but we cannot in justice to our trust accept changes in purpose. We have debated long

(Continued at foot of next Col.)

protection of the world.

General MacNaughton (Canada) also supported Mr. Baruch in his proposals, saying: "This year has been one of anxiety. What we need now is a report of this Commission which will give a message of hope to the world."

Mr. Haselick (Australia) said: "It seems to us that the recent decisions of the General Assembly show that the whole of the United Nations are prepared to stand behind the fundamental principles of the Atomic Energy Commission. Australia is prepared to accept Mr. Baruch's proposals," he declared.

Soviet Attitude

A key to the success of today's meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission was the attitude of the Soviet delegation. Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet representative in the Commission, neither accepted nor rejected the proposals made by Mr. Baruch, which he said, required more time for study.

He made several criticisms. Mr. Gromyko said: "The Soviet delegation is not prepared to speak on the substance of Mr. Baruch's proposals as there has been no time to study them in relation to the disarmament resolution taken by the General Assembly only two

days ago. We believe the atomic energy proposals should be studied in relation to the general question of disarmament."

"However, in a preliminary way I see that Mr. Baruch's proposals are not in all respects in conformity with the General Assembly resolution."

"For example, the General Assembly resolution does not mention the veto because if it had as is done in the Baruch proposal, no unanimity would have been possible."

Mr. Gromyko continued: "In dealing with the sanctions which it is proposed to take against the violators that is another question which must be considered."—Reuter.

Unanimity Wanted

Mr. Baruch appeared sorely disappointed at the delay but finally agreed to the postponement of the Commission's deliberations until Friday. He told the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission that he had intended to ask a vote on the American proposals on Tuesday.

A majority of the Commission members expressed approval of the American plan. The issue raised by Gromyko—that a vote Tuesday might threaten unanimity later—found some support, however.

China's Quo Tai-chi supported the underlying principles of the Baruch proposal, but said he hoped unanimity would be achieved.—Associated Press.

MOSCOW GIVES THE LOW-DOWN

Moscow, Dec. 17.
"Trud," citing American press comment, today said: "The reactionary Lewis pursued in the strike his personal political aims which have nothing in common with the struggle for the lawful demands of his nation."

"Lewis, with Right Wing circles and the Republican Party are well-known, planned an attempt to direct the growing movement of workers into channels favourable to monopolistic trusts."—United Press.

Turkey Reinforces Border

Salonica, Dec. 17.

Turkey has reinforced her frontier posts along the whole length of the Greek-Turkey border in Thrace after guerilla activities in that area, according to reliable reports here.

Greek Air Force Spitfires today scattered thousands of leaflets in the mountain areas where guerillas are believed to have hiding places, promising them amnesty if they surrender before the end of the year.

Guerilla activities have slowed down recently, though minor incidents have been reported in the past 48 hours.—Reuter.

They Wanted Xmas At Home

London, Dec. 17.

Five hundred SEAC troops, who at first refused to board the liner "Eastern Prince" in the King George V Dock in Glasgow today were later, with five exceptions, persuaded to join the ship.

The "Eastern Prince" then left for the Far East, carrying 495 men with 70 others who last week walked off the "Empress of Scotland" at Liverpool. The 500 men, who arrived at Glasgow in trains bearing slogans "We want Christmas at home," staged a sitdown "strike" in the railway siding beside the dock.

After Scottish Command War Minister, described the men's action as "indiscipline" and stated that the accommodation represented a considerable improvement on the wartime scale. Rations were on the approved scale.

When Mr. W. Gallacher, Communist, asked if it was not obvious that conditions must have been very bad for the men to take such action, Mr. Winston Churchill, Conservative leader, interjected with the question: "What would happen if it had been in Soviet Russia?"

Replying to Lord Winterston, Conservative, who suggested that similar incidents after the first World War were supposed to have been due to Communist agitation, Mr. Bellenger said he very much doubted if there was very great Communist influence in this vessel.—Reuter.

Chennault Divorced

Saint Pierre, La., Dec. 18.

Maj. Gen. Chennault, former commander of the 14th U.S. Air Force in China, has been divorced.

Texas Paris court records showed that "an absolute divorce" was granted by District Judge Frank Volker last July 2.

Mrs. Chennault was awarded one half of their community property. She declined comment on the case.

They have eight children, five of whom served in the war.—Associated Press.

Commons Statement

Speaking in the House of Commons today on last week's incident when 300 soldiers disembarked from the "Empress of Scotland," Mr. John Bellenger,

days ago. We believe the atomic energy proposals should be studied in relation to the general question of disarmament."

"However, in a preliminary way I see that Mr. Baruch's proposals are not in all respects in conformity with the General Assembly resolution."

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"Puppet" Worked For SEAC

London, Dec. 17.

Admiral Viscount Mountbatten disclosed at a luncheon today that Pridi Panomyong, former Minister of Siam, kept in wireless touch with the Southeast Asia Command Headquarters after the Japanese had overrun his country.

He had been appointed by the Japanese to the Council of Regency, and the Japanese did not realise that after he took on this job he began to organise and direct the Siamese resistance movement.

"Ruth," as he was known to Southeast Asia Command, by the end of the war had organised sabotage and guerilla units comprising 60,000 fighting men.

Pridi will arrive at Southampton on the "Queen Elizabeth" from America on Thursday, and among his engagements is a luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

He is lending a goodwill mission, and as a guest of the Government he will attend an official reception on Friday.—Reuter.

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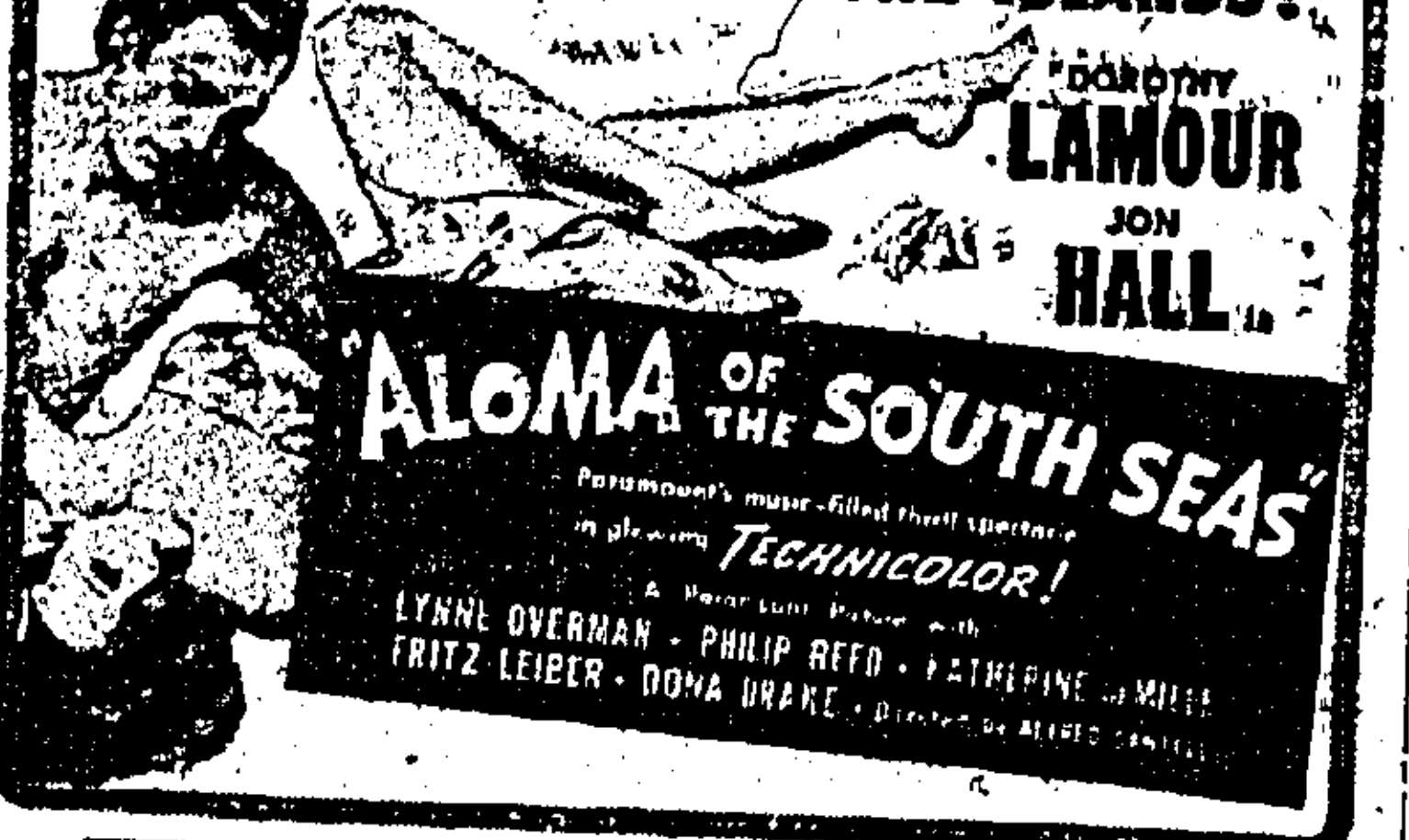
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BLUM GETS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Paris, Dec. 17.
"My only motive for forming a one-party Government is to give urgent first-aid at a moment when a difficult situation is in danger of becoming perilous," declared M. Leon Blum, France's veteran Socialist leader, when presenting his all-Socialist "care-taker" Cabinet to the National Assembly this afternoon.
The life of the Government is, in any case, limited in time by constitutional considerations," he said. "Its programme is to put an end to public disquiet, to ensure that in the immediate future measures prepared by the preceding Government shall be voted, to establish unquestioned equilibrium of the ordinary budget for 1947, to vote certain other necessary laws before the end of the year, and finally, if possible, to promote the rebirth of confidence of the country in its own destiny and future."

After stressing the need for sacrifice and for belief in the French power of recovery, M. Blum said:
"In the present state of human civilization no great question is capable of complete solution purely within the framework of the nation or even of its empire. The world is going through a process of painful growth and is becoming one immense union, and it is in this growth in the solidarity of states, peoples and men that the supreme guarantee of peace resides."
"We shall contribute with ardour and faith to the work of international organisations born of war. We shall carefully cultivate our friendships. Together with our allies and friends and with other interested powers we shall endeavour to discover the surest means of preventing a resurgence of German war industries, particularly in the Ruhr and the Rhineland."

The Saar

"We shall continue negotiations for economic attachment (to France) of the Saar."
There was great applause from all parties when M. Blum rose to speak. The Soviet and American Ambassadors were among those who watched from the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery.

M. Blum told the Assembly that the essential task of his Government in the five weeks to which its life is constitutionally limited, will be to balance the ordinary budget for last year.
According to the balance sheet prepared by the outgoing Finance Minister, M. Robert Schumann, this involves economies of 190,000 million francs, out of a total state expenditure

HE WANTED TO BE ALONE

Paris, Dec. 17.
The discovery by the police two days ago of 38-year-old Raoul Dauterive, who had spent his last 18 years in bed because he was "in love" with his 12-year-old daughter, had its sequel today when his 72-year-old father was arrested and charged with "culpable negligence."
The father told the examining magistrate today that his son had an attack of mumps when he was 16 and had been "strange" ever since. Asked why his son was not given medical attention, the father said: "He wanted to be alone, so we did not want to upset him."—Reuter.

Vote Of Confidence

at present estimated at over 650,000 million francs.
After his speech, M. Blum was given a vote of confidence by 580 votes to 16. Communists, Socialists and Popular Republicans voted for M. Blum, with only 16 Independent Rightists voting against.
M. Blum's Government is confidently expected to last until the second or third week in January, when it will rest with the President of the Republic, who will by then have been elected, to invest someone with the task of forming the "first true Government of the Fourth Republic."—Reuter.

Suspension Of Jew Revisionists

Basle, Dec. 18.
Dr. L. Lauterbach, head of the organization department of the World Zionist Congress, announced today that the rights of the Executive of the United Zionist Revisionists in America have been suspended.

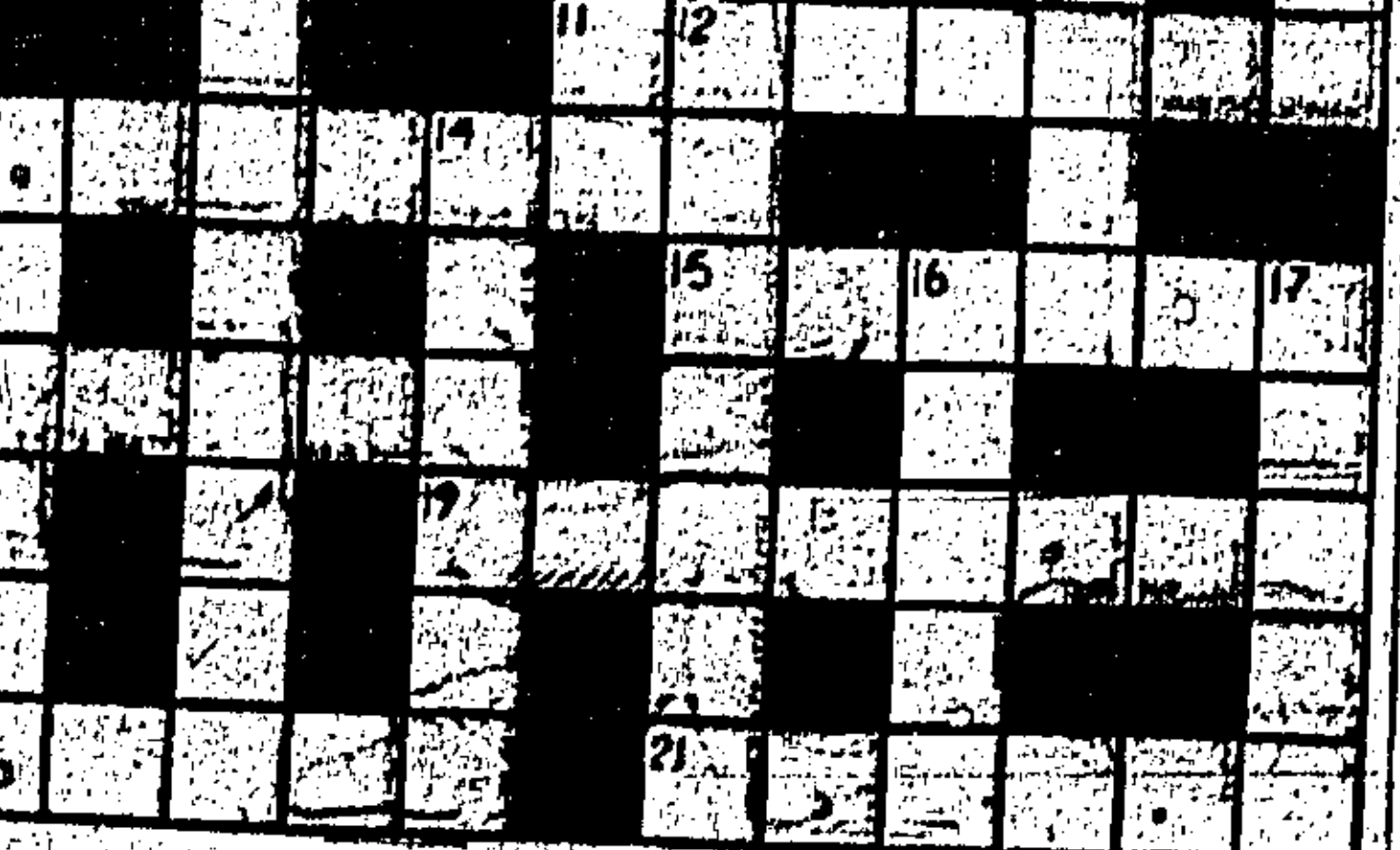
Lauterbach said the suspension was made pending a final verdict of the Court of Honour in the case of six American Revisionist delegates here whose rights to participate in the Congress proceedings is under review.
He declared the suspension of the Executive in America was based on two alleged documents. One, a memorandum to the United Nations secretariat asking the United Nations Assembly to take up the Palestine question; and two, a proclamation calling for funds in the name of "Jewish resistance" which, according to the proclamation, should be the only one to collect funds for active fighters of the underground "Jewish Herces."—Associated Press.

616 Settlements
Basle, Dec. 17.
Officials of the Jewish National Fund reported to the Zionist World Congress that 55 Jewish agricultural settlements had been founded in Palestine in the past seven years, despite handicap Jews restricting sale of land to Jews. They said there were now 316 such settlements.
The Congress turned to the routine work of drafting future policy proposals after an eight-day general debate, which revealed a serious split within the world Zionist organization.
President Chaim Weizmann's brilliant defence of his moderate policy yesterday apparently did much to restore his prestige in the organization, at the same time seriously affronting some American critics.—United Press.

OUTLOOK FAIR

Washington, Dec. 18.
President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors predicted today a "more favourable" outlook for jobs and production for "some years ahead."
A "temporary dip" may come in 1947, the board of three economists told the President, but "courageous and sensible" action by business and labour can hold the recession to "moderate proportions, but not avert it."—Associated Press.

A BRITISH CROSS WORD PUZZLE



Clues Across

1. Chemical.
2. Also, 8. Spurr.
3. Prolonged im.
4. Red Indian.
5. Pull-lighter.
6. Yoke.
7. Of ceaseless.
8. Grain.
9. Strike out.
10. Wandering.
11. Villain.
12. Shellfish.
13. Moistened.
14. Ina.
15. River animal.
16. Severe.
17. Intends.
18. Written work.
19. Reside.
20. Address.
21. Absence.
22. Relents.
23. Warrior.
24. Sarrage.
25. Felicit.
26. Needs.

Clues Down

1. Leap.
2. Bider.
3. Prolonged im.
4. Red Indian.
5. Pull-lighter.
6. Yoke.
7. Of ceaseless.
8. Grain.
9. Strike out.
10. Wandering.
11. Villain.
12. Shellfish.
13. Moistened.
14. Ina.
15. River animal.
16. Severe.
17. Intends.
18. Written work.
19. Reside.
20. Address.
21. Absence.
22. Relents.
23. Warrior.
24. Sarrage.
25. Felicit.
26. Needs.

Yesterday's Crossword
ACROSS: 1. Bridge; 4. Absence; 5. Also; 8. Spurr; 10. Tardigrade; 11. Diet; 12. Gaze; 14. Relents; 17. Trend; 19. False; 22. Warrior; 23. Leap; 27. Rock; 28. Sarrage; 29. Owl; 30. Edict; 31. Felicit; 32. Surf.

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S.S. "Lightning"	Dec. 27	San Francisco	27
S.S. "Surprise"	Dec. 31	San Francisco	31
S.S. "Swarthmore Victory"	Jan. 2	San Francisco	2
S.S. "Great Republic"	Jan. 6	San Francisco	6
S.S. "Fleetwood"	Jan. 10	San Francisco	10
From New York via Panama Canal			
S.S. "China Victory"	Jan. 10	New York	10
S.S. "Lightning"	Jan. 14	New York	14
S.S. "Surprise"	Jan. 18	New York	18
S.S. "Swarthmore Victory"	Jan. 22	New York	22
S.S. "Great Republic"	Jan. 26	New York	26
S.S. "Fleetwood"	Jan. 30	New York	30
From Seattle via Yokohama			
S.S. "China Victory"	Jan. 12	Seattle	12
S.S. "Lightning"	Jan. 16	Seattle	16
S.S. "Surprise"	Jan. 20	Seattle	20
S.S. "Swarthmore Victory"	Jan. 24	Seattle	24
S.S. "Great Republic"	Jan. 28	Seattle	28
S.S. "Fleetwood"	Jan. 31	Seattle	31

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"Swarthmore Victory"	Jan. 11	Jan. 13	San Francisco & Los Angeles.
"Great Republic"	Jan. 29	Jan. 31	ditto.
"Fleetwood"	Feb. 9	Feb. 11	ditto.

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